

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 OES-05 COME-00 /057 R

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R 311140Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

SECDEF

DMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, TK, BD, UK

SUBJECT: GEOS-C SATELLITE PROGRAM

1. DOD PROPOSES TO INITIATE A SPECIAL SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM, IN SUPPORT OF THE NASA GEOS-C SATELLITE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED IN MID-APRIL 1975. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE UTILITY OF SATELLITE ALTIMETERS FOR MEASURING THE GEOMETRY OF THE OCEAN SURFACE AND MEAN SEA LEVEL DETERMINATIONS. NASA'S OBJECTIVE IS TO CALIBRATE THE GEOS-C SATELLITE-BORNE ALTIMETER IN A QUADRILATERAL DEFINED BY BERMUDA;  
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GRAND TURK; MERRIT ISLAND, FLA; AND WALLOPS ISLAND, VA

WHERE ACCURATE SEA LEVEL DATA IS AVAILABLE. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES PROJECT REQUIREMENTS, AND REQUESTS EMBASSY LONDON SEEK APPROPRIATE LEVEL PERMISSION FOR DEPLOYMENT OF DOPPLER TEAMS TO BERMUDA AND GRAND TURK.

2. DOD HAS BEEN ASKED BY NASA TO INSTALL AND OPERATE MOBILE DOPPLER STATIONS AT BERMUDA AND GRAND TURK DURING THE INITIAL CALIBRATION PERIOD AND FOR OCCASIONAL SHORT PERIODS FOR RECALIBRATION DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE SATELLITE (15 MONTHS). THE INITIAL CALIBRATION PERIOD IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MID-APRIL AND LAST 30 TO 60 DAYS.

3. EACH STATION WILL BE OPERATED BY TWO OR THREE MILITARY TECHNICIANS ASSIGNED FROM THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY (DMA) AEROSPACE CENTER. DETAILED INFORMATION ON PERSONNEL AND SCHEDULING WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER COUNTRY CLEARANCE IS GRANTED AND PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT OF TEAMS AND EQUIPMENT. DOPPLER AND SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT IS RELATIVELY LIGHTWEIGHT, APPROXIMATELY 500 TO 1,000 POUNDS. SPECIFIC SITING REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) OPTICAL HORIZON MUST BE CLEAR OF MAJOR OBSTRUCTIONS ABOVE 10 DEGREES ELEVATION IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

(B) AREA MUST BE FREE OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS ON RECEIVING FREQUENCIES OF 150 MHZ, 162 MHZ, 324 MHZ, AND 400 MHZ, OR SUBHARMONICS THEREOF.

(C) RADIO INTERFERENCE AND BACKGROUND NOISE SOURCES SUCH AS AUTOMOBILE, IGNITION, HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES, HIGH POWER TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT, HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED AREAS, ETC., SHOULD BE AT LEAST 200 YARDS AWAY.

(D) ELECTRICAL POWER OF 400 WATTS, 50 OR 60 CYCLES SINGLE PHASE, 110 OR 220 VOLTS, 24 HOURS A DAY IS DESIRABLE. (PLEASE INFORM IF UNABLE TO MEET CRITERIA. TEAM CAN PROVIDE POWER SOURCE IF NECESSARY.)

(E) A FULL-TIME COMMERCIAL OR GOVERNMENT TELETYPE UNCLASSIFIED

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CIRCUIT IN THE VICINITY OF THE EQUIPMENT SITE (OR ACCESS TO AN ESTABLISHED RELIABLE CIRCUIT ON A PART-TIME BASIS) WHICH IS CAPABLE OF ROUTING THE DATA MESSAGES TO THE SATELLITE CONTROL CENTER AT THE APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY IN MARYLAND.

(F) AN EXISTING PERMANENT SHELTER FOR STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK WITH A MINIMUM OF APPROXIMATELY 100

SQUARE FEET.

4. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE DOPPLER GEODETIC SATELLITE PROGRAM, OBSERVATIONS WILL BE MADE ON NAVY NAVIGATION SATELLITES FOR PURPOSE OF DERIVING GEODETIC POSITIONS IN ADDITION TO OBSERVATIONS MADE ON THE GEOS-C SATELLITE. THESE DATA WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED, AND THE DERIVED STATION LOCATION CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT. DOPPLER DATA FROM THE GEOS-C SATELLITE IS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED, ALTHOUGH UTILIZATION OF THE DATA REQUIRES SOPHISTICATED DATA REDUCTION PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE. GEODETIC POSITIONS (DERIVED STATION LOCATIONS) WOULD BE OF MORE BENEFIT THAN RAW OBSERVATION DATA ALTHOUGH THE LATTER

CAN BE PROVIDED IF REQUESTED.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON SEEK HOST GOVERNMENT PERMISSION FOR DEPLOYMENT OF DMA DOPPLER TEAMS TO BERMUDA AND GRAND TURK, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THIS SCIENTIFIC MISSION AS SCHEDULED. REGRET SHORT NOTICE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE071771  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MR. SCHWIMMER;PM/ISO:MRDWORKEN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750111-0040  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975032/aaaaabcl.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GEOS-C SATELLITE PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** TSPA, TK, BD, UK, NASA  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006